

## MANY LOOK BUT FEW REMEMBER WHAT THEY SEE

Police Find Individuals Fail to Note Accurately for Descriptions They Must Have.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.  
(Special Argus Correspondent.)  
Washington, July 30.—Are you a good observer?

Could you, if requested, tell the color of the eyes of your three best friends, or whether the numerals on your watch are in figures or Roman notation?

It would be of great assistance to your police department if you and other people could report simple details like these. As it is, the police are constantly being asked to trace and recover lost articles and missing persons, supplied only with vague and often misleading descriptions.

It is well-known, for instance, that automobile owners seldom know the numbers of their license tags, much less the number of the car's motor. Sometimes they are even uncertain on the point of color. The other day, a man telephoned the Washington police department that his car, which was navy blue with a green stripe, had been stolen. The police obtained a further description of the car from the agency which sold it, and finally succeeded in recovering it. But the stripe on the car was not green but distinctly yellow.

A few weeks ago, a retail merchant in a middle western city reported to the police the disappearance of his senior clerk, with the contents of the cash register. The merchant described the young man as being above the average height, with black hair and brown eyes, a fair complexion, and a mustache. He reported the apartment above the store and who claimed to have seen the man leaving it, carrying a suitcase late at night, described him as "a short, stout man with dark, curly hair, gray eyes and a swarthy skin." How would you like to get on the trail of a criminal, armed with two such descriptions as these?

Major Raymond W. Pullman, commissioner of police in Washington, has recently requested every automobile owner to keep a memorandum in his pocket or desk, containing an exact description of his car, including the motor number and any peculiar marks of identification. The New York police department has gone a step further, and asked every citizen to write a description of his cherished articles of personal property, as well as one of each member of his family, and keep it where it can be obtained in case of emergency. It has been found that few individuals can put down this information without having the objects before them. Details make no impression on his mind and, besides, the imagination insists upon interfering and inserting details that really are not there at all.

Many See Poorly.

This, added to the fact that the eyesight of many people is not normal, accounts for the weird exaggerations and contradictions which often get into print. Take the recent fight at Toledo, for example. The greatest experts on pugilistic matters, trained observers, witnessed and reported this fight for the newspapers, and every one of them reported different details. One of them declared that Dempsey stood with his back to the ring until the call to battle had been sounded twice; another said that he stood facing Willard, eagerly waiting the summons to start. It has been impossible to tell from these accounts what was the color of the umbrella hoisted over the champion's head when he first entered the ring. According to the testimony it must have been either blue or tan or green, but no one seems to be sure. Then there is the question as to who struck the first blow. Various authorities disagree on this point, also. As to the result of the fight, there was certainly no doubt among them, but so far as the details were concerned, all is confusion.

To demonstrate how little reliance may be placed in the testi-

many of eye witnesses, a professor in one of our middle western universities conducted an experiment for the benefit of his class. He explained that a certain incident was about to take place in the classroom; that the class was to watch it as carefully as possible, and afterwards write a report of what they had seen.

Scarcely had he finished speaking when a man, introduced as Jones, with a black mask over his eyes, nose and mouth and wearing a gray rain coat rushed into the room. In his left hand he carried a salt bag half full of nails, and in his right hand a small wrench. A streak of red paint was smeared across his left cheek. Just inside the door of the classroom he turned and pointed his wrench at the pursuing party, shouting, "Stand back, or I'll shoot." Then he ran across the room, dropped to his knees and flung the bag on the floor. "There it is; take it," he said, and rushed out of the room again. At this point entered Smith in pursuit of Jones, shouting, "Give it up, you scoundrel," and rushing over to the bag, picked it up. The professor then jumped from his chair and exclaimed in pretended alarm, "Men, what are up to here?"

Widely Varied.

This was the way the little drama was actually enacted, but it was not what anyone of the twenty-five witnesses present actually saw or reported that they saw. The description of Jones were widely varied. One said he wore a black coat and a light mask; another declared that the mask was red; another that his mouth was painted red, and still another asserted that he carried a pistol and a club in his hand. Some thought that Smith wore a black suit, some a gray suit, and some a blue suit. He was described as carrying a pistol, which he snapped several times, crying "Get out of here." One of the students said that he dropped an umbrella on the floor, and another reported that he had yelled "Catch that man!"

Even the professor's part in the drama was falsely described. He was reported as saying, "What's all this?" "Hello, what's going on here?" and only one student even approximately set down what the professor had actually said. Conflicting testimony is common in the court room. Sometimes half a dozen witnesses will tell completely different stories of how a crime happened. Not long ago, a woman was found murdered in her home. Some of her jewelry were missing, and it was suspected that the crime had been committed by a tramp who had appeared in the town on that day. Four persons were found who declared that they had observed the tramp leave the woman's house by the side door about half-past eight at night. When asked why they thought it was the tramp, each was surprised and finally said it was because of his appearance. Ask to describe his appearance, the four witnesses agreed only as to one detail, namely, that the man wore a cap. One woman swore that she could see by the street lamp that he was unkempt, and that he thrust something into the pocket of his overcoat. Finally, it was a little girl of nine who gave the detective on the case his first correct clue. She stated that he had not worn an overcoat at all, but a cape. This caused the detective to eliminate the tramp and start on another line of investigation, which finally ended in the conviction of a man who was not a tramp at all.

Incorrect Observation.

Another case which shows the fallibility of the human eye is that of a wealthy manufacturer who was attacked by a man who found his way into his home in the suburbs some years ago, and stabbed the

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the  
Signature of *Dr. J. C. H. Fletcher*

manufacturer to death. The stranger also attempted to shoot him with a revolver, but the manufacturer's wife knocked the weapon out of his hand. By the time the police reached the scene, the man had made good his escape, but the wife was absolutely certain as to his identity. He was dressed in dark clothes, dark cap and muffler, she asserted, but she knew "by the look in his eyes" that he was her cousin, a young ex-soldier. Fortunately, the cousin was able to prove a conclusive alibi, and the investigation continued until sometime later another ex-soldier bearing a resemblance to the cousin was arrested as the murderer. Again the wife, as well as the family servants, identified the man as the manufacturer's assailant, though they were a shade less certain, but this defendant was also able to prove his innocence. Thus, the lives of two innocent men were placed in jeopardy by incorrect observation.

The habit of accurate observation, it is held, is not difficult to acquire. The minds are indifferent to details because they have not been trained to retain details. If one would each day consciously take note of the details of the appearance of some one associate or object and implant those details in his mind, going back to them later, he would be giving himself callisthenics in observation which would develop a habit of accurate observation. Soon the mind would automatically store away such details.

## AN AMERICAN ROMANCE AMONG THE PYRAMIDS!

*The Fortieth Door*  
AN EGYPTIAN LOVE STORY  
By Mary Hastings Bradley  
STARTS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S  
CHICAGO SUNDAY TRIBUNE

Every grocer everywhere sells Kellogg's every day.

## DIRECTOR PLACES GARMENT CHAPTER IN STAR DIVISION

The garment department of the Rock Island Red Cross chapter is classed among the star chapters of the county in the production of garments, especially in the refugee work which has been taken up more recently. Notification of this has been received by Mrs. C. W. Hawes, head of the department from Hester T. Smith, who is director of the bureau of chapter production of the central division.

Following is the letter which shows just where the Rock Island chapter stands in production and in the quality of the work.

"I want to tell you how much we appreciate the assistance you are giving us in the refugee garments. We have recently inspected case No. A-81, from your chap-

ter and it is a pleasure to receive so fine a shipment. Everything was beautifully made and the garments were so neatly folded and tied.

"I consider that the Rock Island chapter is doing remarkable work and everyone here in central division especially appreciates the cooperation you have given us since the signing of the armistice. I realize how much harder it is to get workers now than it was formerly and we appreciate what you are doing now all the more.

"There are a few of our chapters which have not seen their way clear to do either refugee knitting of garments, but please do not think that this means that the chapters which are willing are being imposed upon.

"Garments are very badly needed and the chapters to whom we may look for the accomplishment of this work are the ones classed by us as star chapters.

"I can assure you that Rock Island chapter stands high on the roll of honor.

"Very sincerely yours,

"HESTER T. SMITH."

Rock Island Red Cross canteen workers yesterday served between 175 and 200 soldiers who were passing through on their way from Camp Merritt, N. J., to San Francisco, Cal., where they are to be discharged. The train stopped at the Thirtieth street depot and the canteen workers were there immediately with great quantities of lemonade, sandwiches, candy and cigarettes. The train stopped but a short time. The Rock Island canteen has established an excellent reputation throughout the country for the efficient manner in which it has looked after the physical needs of the soldiers who pass through the city. Great numbers

have been served dappetizing and refreshing meals and the boys leave with warm praise for Rock Island's hospitality.

## PROPERTY HOLDERS' NOTICE.

General No. 485.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that the board of local improvements of the city of Rock Island, Ill., has filed in the county court of Rock Island, a certificate of the cost of the improvement entitled in said court, "In Re Petition of the City of Rock Island, Illinois, to assess the cost of the construction of a sewer on Eighteenth avenue from Twenty-eighth street east to a point 20 feet west of Twenty-ninth street," and said certificate also shows the court costs, the amount of accrued inter-

est, and the total amount of said assessment and said certificate also states that the said improvement conforms substantially to the requirements of the original ordinance for the construction of the same, as required by law, and the final hearing on said certificate will be had on the 11th day of August, A. D. 1919, at the hour of o'clock a. m., or as soon thereafter as the business of the court will permit. All persons desiring to make their defense.

Dated at Rock Island, Ill., on the 26th day of July A. D. 1919.

H. M. SCHRIEVER,  
M. T. RUDOREN,  
FRANK WICH,  
JOHN MURRIN,  
WILLIAM FITZSIMMONS  
Board of local improvements of the City of Rock Island, Illinois.

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For Sale by Dealers

## Akin-Schwenker Low Shoe Sale

If you need an extra pair of Low Shoes to finish out the season, or if you can anticipate your next season's need, Better Buy Them Now.

Every dollar you spend here during this sale will pay you double dividends—Dividends on a savings on the price—and dividends in the kind of wear and comfort you want to have. In addition, shoes have a consistent upward trend in price. We can tell you positively that the average shoe will soon be three to four dollars a pair more than they are sold for today. There is no time like the present for buying shoes.

This sale at each of our three stores.

**AKIN-SCHWENKER**  
BETTER CO. SHOES  
DAVENPORT, IOWA & ROCK ISLAND, ILL.  
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## L. S. McCabe & Co.

## Futurist Union Suits

No other make affords the comfort and coolness to the wearer as, "Futurist". It is woman's modern undergarment; sheer, dainty and cool. More comfortable than the knitted garment and more economical than silk.

Soft, white nainsook garments, bodice top, silk shoulder ribbons and draw strings, per suit \$1.25.

Extra fine, white or pink, nainsook garments, regular or bodice tops, per suit \$1.75.

Dainty crossbar marquisette suits in white, cool, comfortable attractive, ideal garments, per suit, \$2.25.

## Women's White Hose Sun and Rain Umbrellas

A Mid-Summer bargain of special interest at this time. A fashioned hose without a seam, of fine mercerized lisle with double heels and toes. Very special—pair 49c.

We still have a good assortment of colors in this special lot of all silk taffeta, new style handles, can be used for rain or sun. Regular \$7.00 value, each \$5.40.

## Dainty Summer Neckwear

Just in—a beautiful assortment of the newest ideas in women's neckwear. Georgette and the finest, sheer organdies, daintily embroidered and lace trimmed. An exceptionally attractive showing at very popular prices. Each 59c to \$1.98.

## Shoe Clearances

50 pairs of women's brown and black oxfords, Louis heels, broken sizes, reduced to \$4.95

25 pairs women's brown and black kid shoes, values to \$10.00, to close, per pair \$4.95

100 pairs of women's patent and kid pumps, leather Louis heels, broken sizes, pair \$3.95

125 pairs women's white kid pumps and slippers, French welt and turned soles, pair \$3.95

200 pairs women's white kid top shoes, black vamps, button or lace, for quick clearance \$3.95

250 pairs children's and misse's slippers and shoes, were \$3.50 to \$5.00, to close at \$2.95

Odd lots of women's and children's high and low shoes, values \$3.00 to \$7.00, pair \$1.95

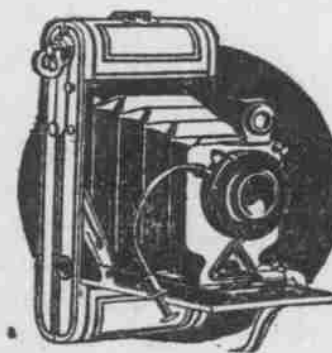
A limited assortment of white canvas strap slippers, sizes 2½ to 8, on sale \$1.95 and \$1.49

## Twenty-Five Per Cent Discount on

All porch swings, porch chairs, porch rugs, grass rugs and floor lamps, all this week. Third Floor.

Remnants of linoleums and congoles choice, per square yard 39c.

## Anso Cameras—Speedex Films



Don't let another summer go by without an Anso. It will add more to the pleasure of your outing than anything else. All winter and long afterwards you can live over again with your pictures those good summer days. Let us show you the Anso line.

## Developing and Printing

In developing and printing your film we keep before us the fact that you have spent considerable time and money in making the exposures, and that it is strictly up to us to get out of the film all you put into it. We are rather proud of our ability to do this. Try us on your next exposures.

## Special Sunday, Holiday and Evening Service

A deposit box has been installed at our Second Avenue entrance where films may be deposited at any time—Sundays, Holidays or at night, and the finished prints will be ready for you next day at 4:30 p. m.

## A Beautiful Enlargement Free With Coupons

Ask for coupons when making purchases in our Photographic Department. On all purchases amounting to \$5.00 we will make free of charge, a handsome enlargement from any film you may wish. Save your coupons.

Ice cream bricks, packed, ready to carry home, on sale at our Delicatessen Shop, Main Floor



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In the dance, it is necessary to use a face powder that stays on—that keeps the face cool and fresh-looking, no matter how warm one becomes.

Soul Kiss Face Powder is very adherent and it is fascinating in its fragrance.

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Soul Kiss Face Powder